

I feel we should address our sermons to them principally. I want this time to speak more directly to you, young men. Recently the editor of our church paper asked different ministers to write and tell *how to reach the young man*. The first one called upon said he felt he had failed in this line in his ministry, at least to a great extent. This seems to be a trouble everywhere. There is a prevalent opinion that the religion of Jesus Christ at this age disqualifies a young man for much that he should enter into to be popular. This is a great mistake. Worldly attractions are not conducive to build up true manhood.

The demand at this age is for young men. The clerk, the railroad employee, the teacher and even the preacher must be a young man. Now is your golden opportunity. You want to prepare to fill a place in life. It is more than simply to live like animals, eat and drink and look for what you can find that will satisfy your appetites and passions. When you get old and must shake off this body you don't want to die like a worn out horse or worthless dog. Then get ready to fill such a place as will miss you when you are gone. When I was a boy seventeen years old I was asked to accept a position in a large drug store. I wondered why they should ask an unkempt country boy to the city to fill such a place when there were plenty of slick, well dressed boys close at hand that would look much better in a fine drug store than I. I was told that the boys in town although they may be good themselves, they are liable to go with bad company and so on account of the associations they were looking for a boy from the farm. The tendency is to go with the crowd. It takes a brave boy to say "no" when the crowd is bent on doing wrong. Then what should you avoid?

First, profanity. Most boys at a certain age think it manly to swear. It takes an oath to be emphatic and have them know you mean what you say. One of General Grant's strong points of character was that he gave his orders simply, the very fewest of words without a single profane utterance. No man, no corporation will employ you because you swear while many would not do so if they heard you use an oath. You should therefore from this one point alone if no other, not take the name of God in vain. There are many other reasons. The Bible positively forbids it. The best men do not do it.

Second, "Evil communications corrupt good manners." You cannot afford to be vulgar. A friend of General Grant's one time about to tell a smutty story in his presence said, "There are no ladies present." Grant shut him up by the terse reply "There are gentleman present." This was a brave man. You don't need to go to war to show your courage. A dead fish will float with the current. It takes a live fish to go up stream. An acquaintance of mine—he gave the name—one time employed a man who swore continually. He said, "Say you have

been abusing my best friend all morning." He replied, "Who is that?" The response came tersely, "Jesus Christ."

Third. He next gave quite a number of experiences in his personal life by which he proved that to take any intoxicating drink will rob a young man of his manhood. He told how the general manager of a great dining car system asked him to the bar to take a drink and yet no one of his employees was allowed to take a drink or use any tobacco while on duty. At Ashland, Ohio, years ago he saw this notice in a Wells Fargo Express office, "No one employed here who drinks or smokes." In his illustrations he used incidents from his personal experience giving names of persons and locations. This always catches the ears of the congregation. The sermon was attentively listened to and a number of "the boys" said it was fine.

The Mission Field

WINGS FOR WEIGHTS

LOUIS S. BAUMAN

EVANGELIST No. 22 just came to hand, and in it I read again the words which it has pained me so often to see in the columns of our paper, coming from the pens of brethren. I often felt I must reply before, and now I cannot keep still.

A brother writes: "Why be so enthusiastic over foreign missions when we cannot near supply the demand at home?" Some time ago another brother referred to some of our brethren as having a "zeal not according to knowledge" because of their foreign missionary enthusiasm. Now brethren, I do not think these things look well in a paper that is the official organ of what claims to be a gospel church, striving to imitate the apostolic church. *Imitate the apostolic church! And frozen up on the question of foreign missions?* NEVER!! There are some other people besides these missionary zealots in our church that have a "zeal not according to knowledge." Knowledge! Do you know that the history of all denominations teaches us that when they first began to obey the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach this gospel to every creature," that then and not until then, did they begin to take on a new life, and to leap forward to greater victories, and to prosper in every department of work?

An old legend tells us that God made the first birds without wings. They could only walk. He then made them wings and laid them by their sides with the command, "Bind them to your sides." They felt that it was task enough to keep out of the way of their enemies without carrying these extra weights and were loathe to obey. Finally, they obeyed and behold! *The weights became wings!*

Brethren, God has laid the burden of foreign missions by our sides with the command. Let us bind them upon our hearts, and behold, we will find they are the wings that will carry us forward and upward unto the glorious coming of the King.

This morning while reading Brother Gilin's address to the students of the Iowa State Normal, I noticed he said, "The Brethren church believes that in carrying out the first part of this command, 'Go teach all nations,' it has too often been forgotten that Jesus also said, 'Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.'" Had those students questioned him closely, with what shame would he have had to admit that not a single member of the Brethren church has gone outside of the United States to preach this gospel,—the United States,—only a part of the English speaking people. Never has the blush of shame burned upon my face so deeply as when I have to stand before a congregation of people, composed in great part of members of denominations with missionaries toiling in every land on earth and tell them that the New Testament is the rule, guide and practice (?) of the Brethren church, *but we haven't a single foreign missionary on the face of the earth!* And then the miserable excuses I have attempted to mouth,—*"we're weak," "we're young," "we're going to,"*—excuses, when I know of at least a hundred members myself, any one of whom could support a gospel preacher every day in the year in India, or China. And these fellows are patted on the back by some of our preachers at home, who say, "Be careful now! There is a 'zeal not according to knowledge,'" or "there are heathen at your own door." There are no heathen in front of my door. I haven't been asleep. There are some mighty big sinners, but they are not ignorant of the way in which they walk.

Suppose a great hotel were afire at the midnight hour. The night clerk sees the flame fast creeping up the stairways and elevator shafts. Five hundred souls are fast asleep in the rooms above,—unaware of the approaching flame of death! He turns in the alarm. Then he rushes to the door of a bedroom and shouts, "Fire!" The sleeper draws out lazily, "Huh?" "Fire!" shouts the clerk. "Where?" "How do you know?" "I don't smell any smoke." "Don't bother me." "All right. Plenty of time." Now what would you think of a clerk who would stand at that door and shout and argue and plead and try to convince and help dress that fellow while four hundred and ninety-nine others were sleeping the sleep of death? He ought to be—well—! Now, my Bible tells me to preach the gospel to every creature, and then the responsibility rests with him as to whether or not he wishes to get up and seek a place of safety. At no place does it demand that I must then continue until one is convinced and converted before I go to the next sleeper. Brethren, the world is on fire with the wrath of God! One half its inhabitants are totally ignorant of it. Isn't it about time we are crying, "Fire!" at another door?

The Brethren church need not disgrace herself by abandoning her College, her Publishing House, her Chicago Mission, or any other of her enterprises. No! But she is